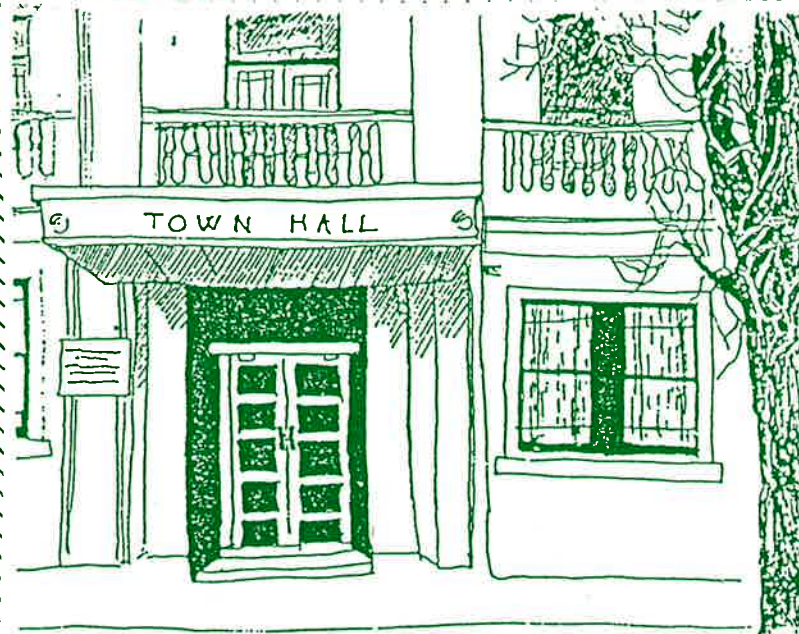


REDFERN LEGAL CENTRE

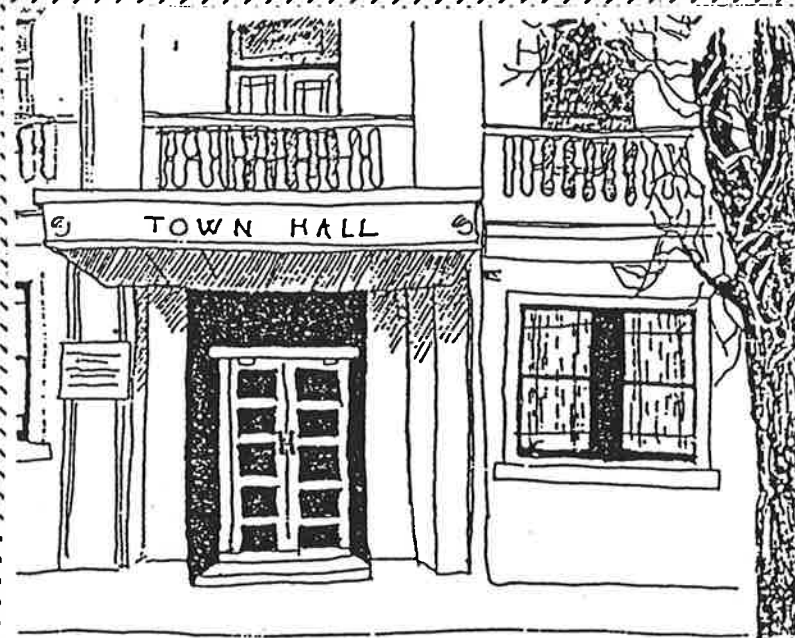


ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1988 - JUNE 1989

RLC.

REDFERN LEGAL CENTRE



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Introduction

Redfern Legal Centre provides services for an area that remains one of the most disadvantaged in Sydney.

The Centre opened in March 1977 with a volunteer staff in premises provided by the South Sydney Council. Assistance from the Council and the Federal Government enabled the employment of paid staff from mid 1977.

RLC continues to provide a general legal service to the community and has specialised in areas of law where a particular need has been demonstrated and where legal services were unavailable or inadequate. The case and policy work of RLC has concentrated on issues concerning consumer credit/ debt, housing, tenancy, domestic violence and victims of crime. The Centre has extended the usual casework-courtwork model and has developed an innovative, interdisciplinary approach to the delivery of legal services.

In addition to the generalist legal service the Centre currently operates the Intellectual Disability Rights Service and a Credit and Debt service.

During the last 12 years RLC has initiated or has been actively involved in projects which have led to the establishment of other services: - the Welfare Rights Centre, the Prisoners Legal Service, the Accommodation Rights Service, the Consumer Credit Legal Centre, the Campbelltown Legal Centre, Redfern Legal Centre Publishing and Streetwise Comics.

Demand for services has continued to increase. However lack of funding prohibits RLC from expanding to meet the need. In some areas of work reductions in funding may result in cuts to services.

Objectives for 1988-1989

- To provide a legal advice and referral service.
 - To provide ongoing casework services to people who live or work in the RLC catchment area and who cannot afford the services of a private solicitor or obtain adequate assistance from the Legal Aid Commission of NSW.
 - To identify inequalities and defects in laws, the legal system, administrative practices and society which affect RLC's clients and disadvantaged people generally and to work for social and legal change to remove those defects and inequalities.
 - To promote community legal education.
 - To investigate and develop new ways of providing legal services to RLC's clients in the interests of improving access to RLC's services and to ensure that the quality of those services is maintained and improved.
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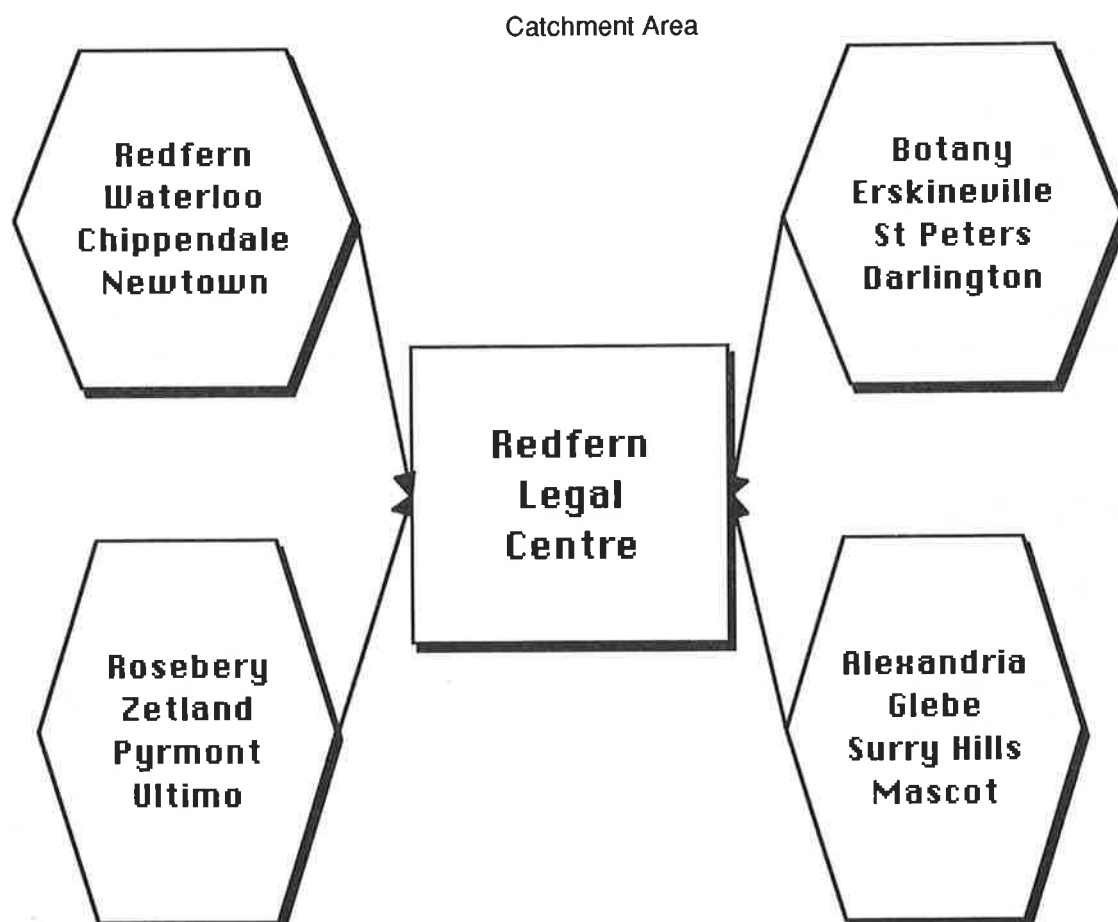
Casework

General Legal Service

Eligibility

Legal advice and assistance is provided to people and organisations who:

- cannot afford a private lawyer;
- cannot obtain adequate assistance from other legal aid services;
- live or work in the RLC catchment area (the exceptions are the IDRS and Credit & Debt services which provide state-wide services).



Initial advice is given to people who make an appointment and/or attend at the Centre, unless their legal problem falls outside the scope of the Centre's work.

Follow up work is generally restricted to those who live or work within the RLC catchment area and to specific areas of poverty law such as credit/debt, tenancy, intellectual disability, victims of crime, domestic violence, wills, immigration and problems of local community groups.

Guidelines can be relaxed in special cases, for example where no other legal assistance is available. In particular, priority is given to cases which will assist the greatest number of

people. Litigation may be conducted if a precedent could be established that would benefit a particular class of clients.

Assistance is generally not given in commercial matters and conveyancing, nor to landlords in tenancy matters. Assistance is generally limited to advice only in matters such as probate, workers compensation or personal injury claims where other assistance such as the services of the private profession will often be available.

Availability of legal advice and assistance

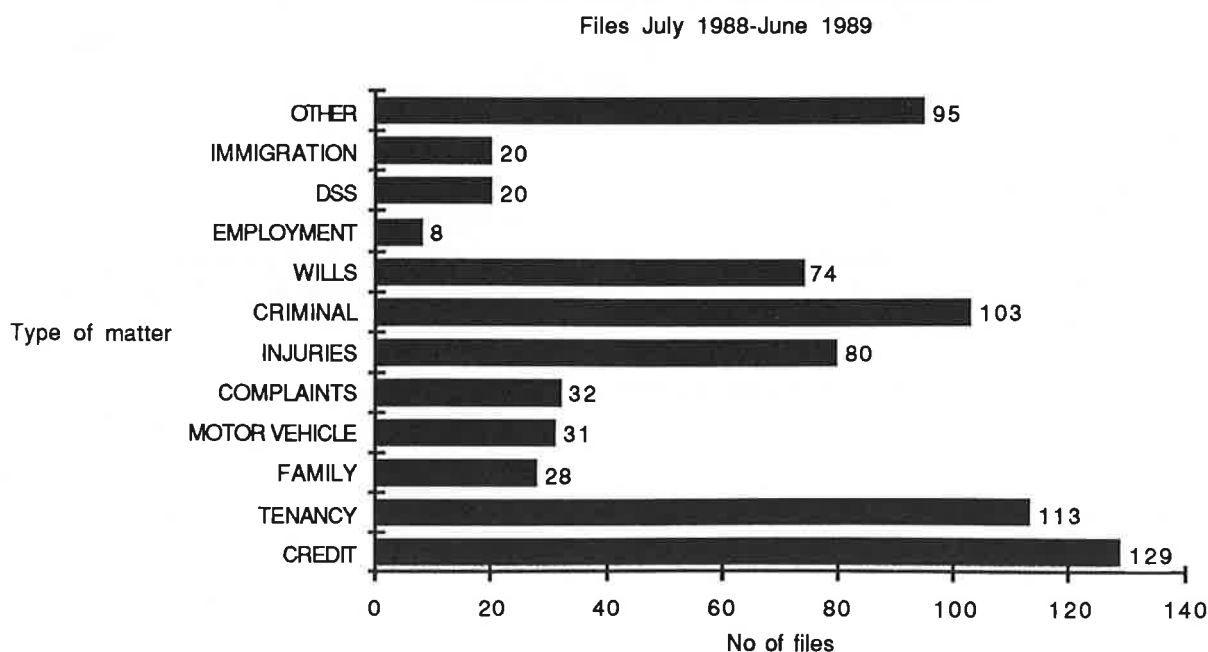
Interviews are conducted during the week at six sessions; Monday-Friday 6pm-9pm and Tuesday 2pm-6pm.

Telephone advice is given:

- to social welfare and community workers seeking advice on behalf of clients any time between 9am to 9pm.
- to any caller during advertised interviewing session times.
- in emergencies to any caller 9am to 9pm weekdays.

Statistics

In the financial year 1988-1989 the Centre had over 4925 initial client contacts. More than 2100 clients came to the Centre seeking advice and the rest were given advice by telephone. 772 files were opened for continuing matters.



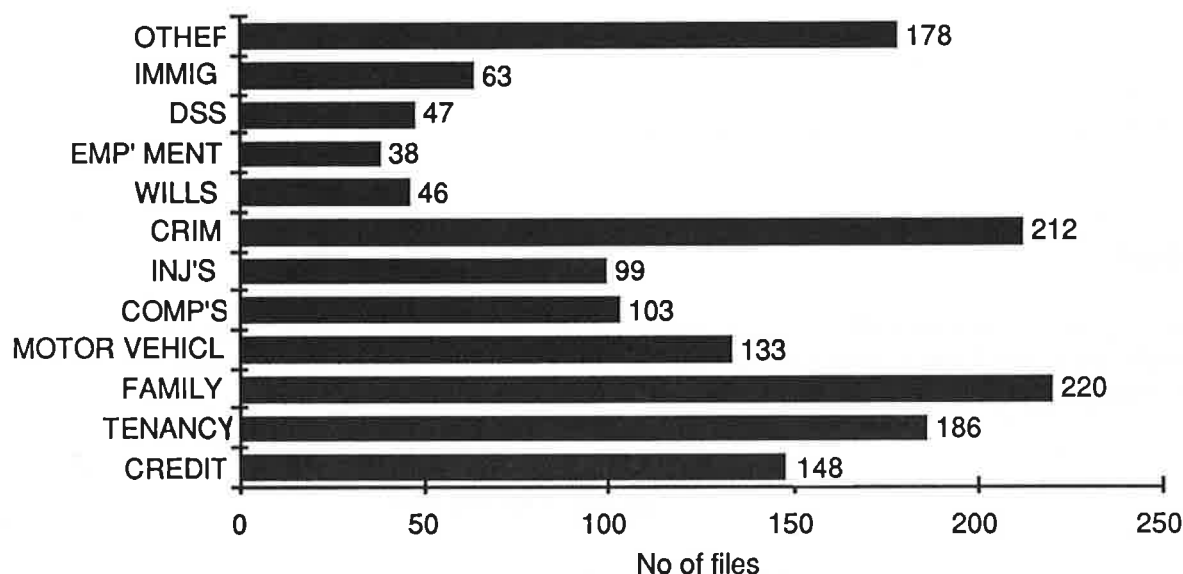
The major areas of concern to people who contacted the Centre by telephone were family law, criminal law, credit and debt problems and tenancy. Calls are received from all over New South Wales as well as from interstate.

Credit, family law, motor vehicle property damage and criminal matters were the major areas where advice was sought by the clients in person

The 772 files opened by the Centre during this period include all matters where continuing action is taken by Centre staff and volunteers. The areas in which these files are opened reflect the Centre's areas of speciality including credit matters, criminal injuries compensation, domestic violence and tenancy. The Centre also prepares a considerable number of wills for pensioners in the South Sydney area who cannot afford private legal assistance.

In many cases the Centre will refer a matter to another legal aid body, a private lawyer and where appropriate to a welfare agency.

Advice sheets July 1988-June 1989



Pro bono arrangements

In 1988 the large Sydney firm **Clayton Utz** generously offered to act without fee for some people referred by Redfern Legal Centre. Matters referred have included medical negligence, family law, tenancy and property disputes.

Barristers from **Frederick Jordan Chambers** have acted for no fee on numerous occasions and have indicated that they are willing to continue to do so. Thanks go especially to John Basten and Andrew Fisher, barristers.

The assistance provided by these arrangements is invaluable and RLC thanks all those who are involved.

Notable Cases

Malcolm v the Department of Corrective Services

In late 1987 the Minister for Corrective services, Michael Yabsley, declared that any prisoner who had been convicted of an escape or attempted escape should be confined in maximum security gaols for the totality of their sentence. Any prisoners then in less secure gaols were ordered to be transferred to maximum security. RLC agreed to act for a number of prisoners who

had been transferred to maximum security institutions. The Legal Aid Commission supported our clients and the Supreme Court was asked to declare Mr Yabsley's actions illegal. Before the hearing commenced, the Minister, on legal advice, agreed to reverse his decision. His attempt to effect legislative change to give retrospective legality to his actions failed and the Supreme Court action was settled.

Inquiry into the Death of David Gundy

The Centre was involved in the inquest into the death of Mr David Gundy. Mr Gundy, an Aboriginal man, was shot and killed in his bedroom on 27 April 1989 by members of the NSW police SWOS or Special Weapons and Operations Section. Mr Gundy was not wanted by the police for any offence.

The Centre acted for the brothers and sisters of Mr Gundy who were refused government funding for representation at the inquest. Peter McClellan QC, Kate Traill, Lloyd McDermott and Paul Byrne of the NSW Bar appeared at the inquest donating their services free in a case which ran over 6 weeks.

Detective Sergeant Dawson gave evidence at the inquest that his finger must have slipped on to the trigger of his shotgun and that it had accidentally discharged. The coroner found that there was no prima facie case for an indictable offence and the 6 member jury found that the shooting was accidental.

The matter continues: the Ombudsman is conducting an inquiry and the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody will investigate the incident.

Inquest into the death of Sallie Anne Huckstepp

The inquest commenced in January 1987. The Centre acts for Ms Huckstepp's immediate family. The matter is now in its 5th week of actual hearing time and was listed to conclude in April 1990. The hearing has exposed the seamy underbelly of steamy Sydney with allegations of State and Federal police involvement in corruption, murder, drug dealing and prostitution.

Farmers v Credit

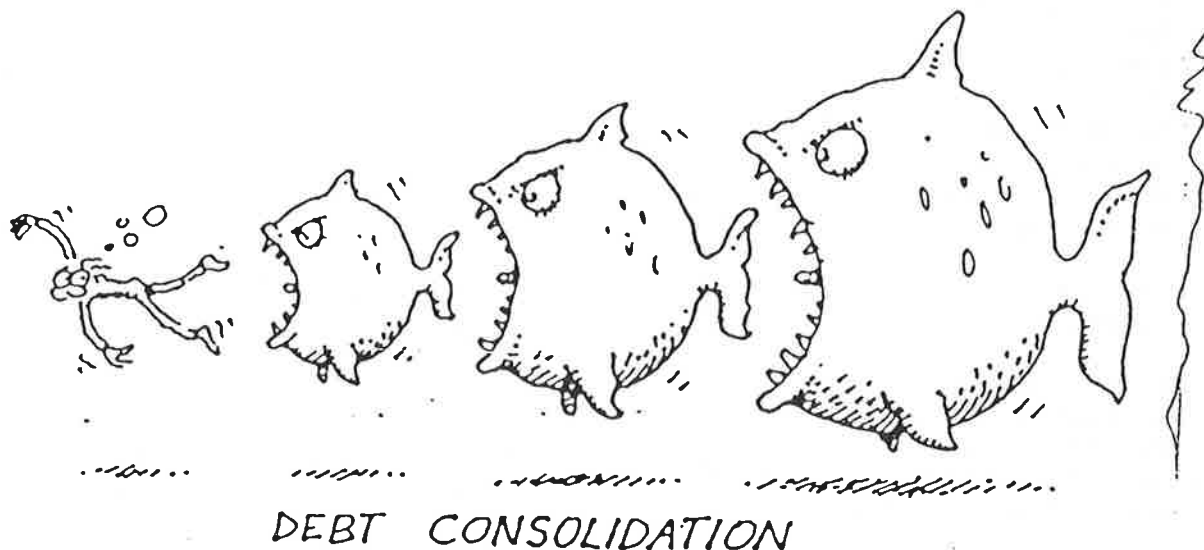
In January 1989, the Centre received instructions from farming consumers of credit to assist them against both Mercantile Credits Limited and Custom Credit Corporation Limited in those companies' applications to the Commercial Tribunal of NSW for a reinstatement of credit charges on a number of loan contracts.

The companies have admitted to failing to state the interest rate on the contracts correctly. In the matter against Mercantile Credits, our clients received much publicity when they were singled out and relieved of the credit charges in a move by the financier to ensure that this Centre was no longer involved. Custom Credits solicitors have taken the opposite line and have us and the Tribunal in the Supreme Court in an attempt to silence the inquisition. The Tribunal's decision on an interlocutory point is reported in Custom Credit Corporation Limited v. McInnes & Aner (1989) ASC 55 - 939.



Hammon v Alliance Acceptance Ltd.

In June 1989, the Commercial Tribunal rewarded our efforts in running an endless stream of settling cases by handing down the decision of *Hammon v Alliance Acceptance Ltd* (1989) ASC 55 - 931. The decision sets useful precedent by holding that our client could not be held liable as a co-borrower when the essence of the transaction had him as a guarantor. The finance company was held responsible for the actions of its agent, the motor vehicle dealer, and the loan was declared unenforceable as against our client. The finance industry has been put on notice that its members cannot sign guarantors or witnesses to loans as joint debtors.

**Specialist Casework**

In early 1985, RLC adopted a policy and structure which resulted in the establishment of specialist units of legal service, the aim being to develop a particular expertise among staff and volunteers in the difficult yet high demand casework areas. The units are also responsible for developing policy and reform strategies.

The Intellectual Disability Rights Service

IDRS has been part of Redfern Legal Centre since 1980, when a group of RLC volunteers became concerned about the legal problems of people who have intellectual disabilities. They found that these people often suffered violation of their legal and human rights. Breaches of the rights of people with intellectual disabilities have in the past often gone unrecognised and even where the breaches were recognised they often went unremedied. In 1986 RLC received funding from the Federal Department of Community Services and the NSW Department of Youth and Community Services (as they then were) to operate a full-time service.

The Service has advised a large number of people over the past year. Much of this advice work is done over the phone as IDRS operates on a state-wide basis. Clients are generally provided with suggestions for self-help or with an appropriate referral rather than carrying the matter right through.

Although IDRS generally carries a small casework load, an important test case was run by the Service during 1988. The issue involved in the case was whether parents have the right to consent to their child being sterilised, or whether this is a matter which must be decided by the Court. The case, **Re a Teenager**, was heard before Justice Cook in the Family Court. Although Justice Cook's decision in the case was unfavourable to the argument of the Service that parents cannot consent to a sterilisation, a similar case decided in December 1988 by Justice Nicholson, the Chief Judge of the Family Court confirmed the viewpoint of the Service.

Credit & Debt Service

RLC's Credit and Debt Service provides direct legal services to the public on credit matters. It also provides legal consultancy services to financial counsellors, other credit workers, community workers, and government. The Service aims to provide a comprehensive casework, education, law reform and policy service.

In 1988, the Centre assisted over 500 clients with consumer credit and related matters. In most cases the issues involved are of great importance to consumers as a whole.

While many cases are conducted by our staff solicitors, counsel is briefed where a grant of legal aid has been made. Our sincere thanks are offered to the following counsel for their great assistance and patience:

John Basten, Pamela Nash, Michael Windsor, Julian Millar, Henry di Suvero and Andrew Fisher.

Victims of Crime

With the creation of the Victims Compensation Tribunal in February 1988, RLC's practice in this area has expanded rapidly. The majority of cases reflect the nature of the South Sydney area and arise from victims of street offences. The Centre also works closely with the Sexual Assault Centre at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and accepts a number of referrals. As of July 1989 there were 55 current victims of crime compensation files, half of which relate to victims of sexual assault or domestic violence. Although most applications are routine, there are some which raise points of law and have required extensive argument in the Tribunal.

Domestic Violence

January 1980 saw the introduction of new legislation giving far greater protection to victims of domestic violence. RLC has routinely assisted women seeking Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders and given assistance with related matters such as housing, social security, custody and access.

Tenancy

Wednesday night has been maintained as a specialist tenancy session.

Tenants who are in dispute with landlords over rent, repairs, bond money, and eviction were assisted. While most tenants were covered by the standard 5A lease, clients with problems arising from protected tenancies, informal tenancies, licensee agreements and public housing were also assisted.

Casework in this area has also involved the preparation of cases before the new Residential Tenancies Tribunal and monitoring the decisions of the Tribunal. In particular the provisions in the new legislation concerning excessive rent have been tested, and unfortunately have proved to be an inadequate remedy for tenants.

Significant staff time has been spent providing back-up legal advice and assistance to housing and community workers.

In March 1989 the NSW government cut funding to the independent Tenants and Housing Advice Services. The loss of these services has had a significant impact on the Centre.

Community Legal Education

General Legal Service and the Credit and Debt Service

In early 1989 the Centre formed its Community Legal Education Group which consists largely of law student volunteers. The group has been trained as educators and with the assistance of staff have succeeded in informing the public by means of seminars, talks and workshops in various areas of the law such matters as: anti-discrimination law, credit and debt, motor vehicle accidents, family law, If You Are Arrested and neighbourhood disputes.

The CLE project has exceeded all expectations. Members of the group have now conducted seminars for:

- the Department of Family and Community Services
- trainee district officers,
- information officers with the Department of Immigration,
- People attending attendance centres pursuant to a court order,
- the Leichhardt Probation and Parole Service,
- new migrants at the Adult migrant Education Service,
- apprentice technicians with Telecom.

The Centre salutes the exceptional time and effort demonstrated by the members of the CLE group and the excellence of their results. Projects planned for the near future include a weekly radio programme on 2RSR, programmes on the local cable TV station, and some longer term educational projects aimed at particular target groups in the area.

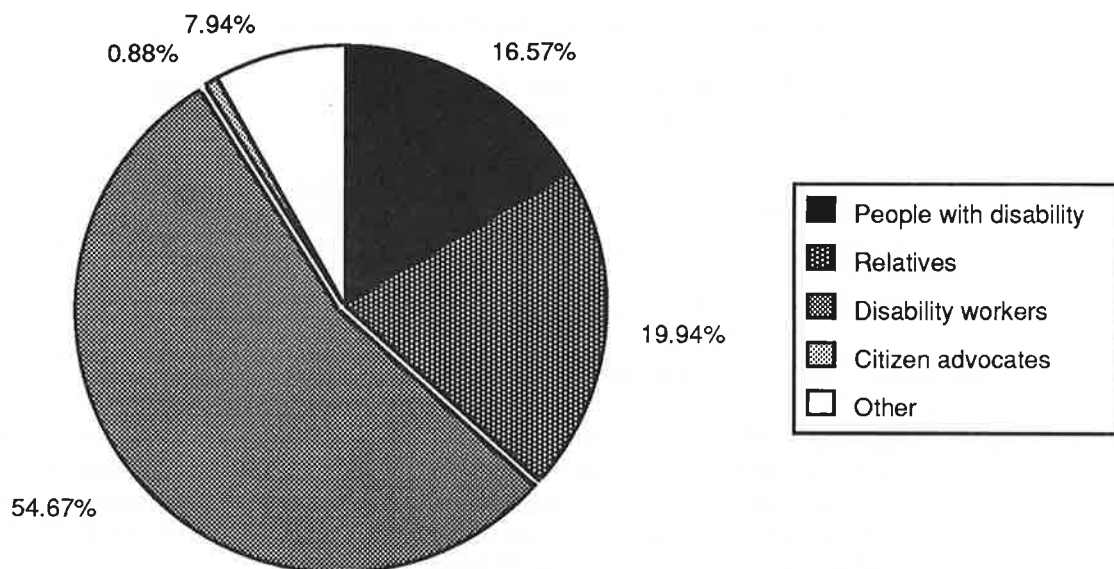
In addition to the work of the Community Legal Education group, staff have been responsible for a number of educational projects eg:

- The provision of lectures on civil debt recovery in the "Law for Non-Lawyers" course at the University of Sydney and at Westmead.
 - The provision of a training officer in the course on "Financial Counselling" conducted by Credit Line.
 - Workshops for local groups on Landlord and Tenant legislation.
 - Lectures and papers on a range of legal issues including tenancy, domestic violence, credit and debt and juvenile justice.
-

Intellectual Disability Rights Service

Education is vital to the philosophy and goals of the IDRS. During 1988, it conducted an extensive education programme around NSW for people with an intellectual disability, their relatives and advocates, and for disability workers. A total of 604 hours was spent educating 2,848 people during the year. The following chart shows the breakdown of people attending these sessions during 88/89.

Breakdown of people who attended IDRS education sessions during 1988/89:



A major component of the education work of the Service during the second half of 1988 was the implementation of the 'Rights at Work Kit' which was produced by the Service in 1987. This involved running a number of seminars in both city and country areas aimed primarily at workers involved in sheltered and supported employment. An important part of this project was the employment on a casual basis of two people with a disability as educators. Six months was spent conducting seminars for workers with disabilities on rights at work.

Law Reform/Policy

The Centre draws upon information gained from its large caseload to alert both the government and the public to needed reforms of legislation and government policy. It also uses this information to further develop its own services.

In 1988/89 the issues taken up concerned housing and tenancy, consumer credit, domestic violence, juvenile justice, legal aid services and intellectual disability. A number of related issues were also pursued.

Intellectual Disability Rights Service.

Law Reform and Policy Work is always an important focus for IDRS. Last year the staff were involved in policy work in a number of areas including:

- Implementation of the *Disability Services and Guardianship Act* which was proclaimed in July 1989.
- The treatment of people with intellectual disabilities in the criminal justice system.
- Proposed changes to the laws of evidence to allow victims of crime who are not able to swear or affirm to give admissible evidence in Court.
- Proposed amendments to the *Anti-Discrimination Act* to give greater protection to people with intellectual disabilities.
- A submission concerning the migration of people with intellectual disabilities and of families with a member who has an intellectual disability to the FitzGerald Committee's inquiry into Australia's immigration policies.
- The de-institutionalisation of people with an intellectual disability.

The Service has produced the following publications:

Rights in Residence, the Service's latest publication became available during 1988 and was launched with a party in May 1989. This book is a manual that examines the law and rights in group homes, institutions, and other supported accommodation services. This area of the law is of great significance to people with intellectual disabilities, and to the people who work with them.

In addition:

Legal Rights and Intellectual Disability: A Short Guide, produced by the Service in 1986, and *The Rights at Work Kit*, which was launched in 1987 continued to sell well during the year. *Intellectual Disability: a manual for Criminal Lawyers*, written for the Service by barrister Mark Ierace, was launched in October 1989.

RLC wishes to thank the Law Foundation for its assistance with these publications.

Housing and Tenancy

During the last 13 years a significant proportion of RLCs' clients have been tenants and as a consequence the Centre has a strong commitment to law reform in this area. During 1988/89 a proportion of staff time was allocated to work on the policy and law reform issues associated with housing and tenancy matters. Work involved the following:

- Preparation and presentation of a submission to the Committee established to conduct a review of the Landlord and Tenant (Amendment) Act 1948 (Protected Tenancies)
- Participation in a successful campaign to raise the income level used to define "wealthy" protected tenants. "Wealthy" protected tenants can be charged high rents. The old income level had not been adjusted to reflect inflation and enabled tenants with incomes equivalent to married rates for pensions and benefits to be classified as "wealthy tenants".

- For 10 years NSW Governments had promised new legislation to govern residential tenancies. RLC has continued to work on the policy issues involved in the on going review of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1896 (private tenancies). RLC acted in a formal and informal advisory role to government on the drafting of the new Residential Tenancies Act and the standard lease.
- In October 1986 the Residential Tenancies Tribunal Act 1986 came into operation. For the first time this Act gave tenants the right to appeal "excessive rents". An early decision of the Tribunal found that the onus to prove that a rent increase was excessive was on the applicant/tenant. This onus is difficult to discharge and in order to provide evidence for cases concerning 'excessive rent' RLC conducted a survey of rents in the area
- Liaison with, and co-operative work with the Tenants' Union of N.S.W. and other like organisations.
- In mid 1988 the Minister for Housing Mr Schipp appointed Max Raine of Raine and Horne Real Estate to conduct an enquiry into homelessness in the inner city. RLC prepared a submission for this inquiry.
- Seminars were conducted for local groups on landlord and tenant legislation.
- Provision of back-up advice and assistance to housing and community workers in the area (particularly TAHRS).
- One of the recommendations made by the Raine enquiry into inner city homelessness that was adopted by the Minister involved the defunding of the Tenants Union and Tenants Advice Services. RLC participated in the campaign aimed at preventing the proposed de-funding. Unfortunately this campaign was unsuccessful.

Consumer Credit

Two staff solicitors specialise in credit and debt law. They co-ordinate RLC's Credit and Debt Service. The following list details law reform activities undertaken by the service.

- **Guarantor or co-borrower.** The guarantor/co-borrower issue is one area where our casework has led to publicity and education work to the benefit of consumers generally. (See Notable Cases.)
- **Point of Sale Finance and Insurance Practices.** RLC has made two submissions to the Business and Consumer Affairs inquiry into Point of Sale Finance and Insurance Practices, has given evidence to the Inquiry and has had several meetings with Business and Consumer Affairs staff on the issue.
- **Market Monitoring.** RLC has conducted independent monitoring surveys of the credit market, relevant to policy matters including:
 - interest rate surveys (annually since 1979)
 - survey of the availability of consumer credit insurance (1989).
- **Research.** RLC's Credit and Debt Service has sponsored and co-ordinated research into particular problem areas, notably that of credit assessment and its relationship to financial commitment. *More More More: Credit Assessment and Financial Overcommitment* was released in April 1988.
- **Financial overcommitment** The Service attended the April 1988 National Forum on Consumer Credit: Problems of Overcommitment. RLC prepared a major consumer

movement position paper for presentation to the forum entitled: *Financial Overcommitment - The Consumer View* (1988).

- **Class Actions** The service has contributed to the debate on class actions legislation from the point of view of consumers. A report entitled *Commonsense Guide to the Class Actions Debate* has been prepared and will be released shortly.
- **Industry Regulation.** The service made a submission in response to the Government Green Paper on Co-Regulation as it would relate to the finance industry.
- **Banking.** RLC's Credit and Debt Service was involved in a campaign to point out to the Commonwealth Bank the inequitable nature of the charges it has commenced levying on low-balance accounts. In response to this campaign the Bank agreed to extend the exemption from fees.

The Centre monitors the experience of consumers who have had problems with Electronic Funds Transfer. Details of these cases have been forwarded to the Trade Practices Commission. The code of practice in this area has been improved.

- **Credit related insurance.** The Service has met with the Insurance Commissioner and the Federal Bureau of Consumer Affairs, conducted a survey of consumer credit insurance availability and raised the issue in submissions to the Point of Sale Inquiry. One solicitor is a member of the insurance subcommittees of the Australian Financial Counselling and Credit Reform Association and the Consumer Law Association - National. (CLA-N).



Domestic Violence and Victims of Crime

RLC's Victims of Crime Solicitor has been involved in a number of initiatives at both the state and local level.

The South Sydney Domestic Violence Committee is a group of community and government workers, representatives of both Waterloo and Redfern Police Stations, the local Chamber Magistrate and residents, all of whom work with victims of domestic violence and/or have a specific interest in violence against women in the home.

The Committee has been meeting monthly since late 1987. It has achieved results in a number of different areas relating to domestic violence including education, case discussion, lobbying, compiling a resource list for local doctors and establishing a therapeutic group for survivors. The Committee forms part of a state-wide network of local committees which operate with the assistance of the Women's Co-ordination Unit and NSW Domestic Violence Committee. In April 1989, RLC staff addressed a conference of local committees on the achievements of the South Sydney Committee

RLC is represented on the legal subcommittee of the NSW Domestic Violence Committee. The main function of this sub-committee is to monitor the restraining order provisions of the Crimes Act.

Juvenile Justice

In November 1988, it was decided that although RLC did not have sufficient resources to provide representation for juveniles in the Children's Court, it would attempt to promote community education and the role of non-lawyers in responding to the legal needs of youth in the South Sydney area.

RLC has worked as part of the Youth Justice Coalition - an informal grouping of community, youth and legal workers that was formed in 1987. Major initiatives of the Coalition include:

- Production of "Fact Sheets" aimed at correcting some of the mis-information in the popular press about "law and order".
- A survey into police and juveniles, particularly related to the re-introduction of the Summary Offences Act and amendments to the Children (Care and Protection) Act.
- Preparation of submissions and lobbying in relation to youth homelessness, institutionalisation of juveniles, under age drinking and truancy.

Recently, the Coalition has obtained funding from the Law Foundation for a Youth Justice Project aimed at researching and disseminating information on these and related issues. The Centre has also been involved in community work in this area.

The South Sydney Youth Advocacy Programme

Police/community consultations in the South Sydney area in November 1988 culminated in a large meeting of young people, police, local residents and youth and community workers called under the umbrella of the Sydney City Council's Youth Advisory Committee. One of the major recommendations of that meeting was the establishment of a support group for young offenders. A working group was set up to look at ways in which this might be implemented. This led to the establishment of the South Sydney Youth Advocacy Programme, (SSYAP), a 24-hour roster of volunteers who provide assistance and follow up for juveniles charged by the police.

The programme is auspiced by RLC and managed by a committee comprising representatives from RLC and youth serviced in the South Sydney area. The programme has the support of South Sydney Council.

A substantial benefit of the SSYAP project has been the development of a network of workers with training in the field of youth advocacy.

Immigration

Redfern Legal Centre has maintained an involvement in immigration issues by participating in the Migration Law Group, a group of lawyers and community workers active in lobbying for reform in immigration legislation. The group has made numerous submissions to the Federal Government on immigration issues including a major submission to the Fitzgerald Committee. One staff member attended the National Immigration Conference on the Future of Immigration in July 1988.

Privacy and Tax File Numbers

RLC, in conjunction with other legal centres, co-ordinated a major submission to the Senate Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs Inquiry into the "National Identification System for Australia". The submission challenged the need for a national identification system and proposed controls to and applications for privacy legislation. One staff member appeared with Dr Kate Harrison and Mr James Nolan before the Cooney Senate Committee in August 1988.

The Senate Committee's report resulted in the enactment of the Privacy Act 1988 and the Taxation Laws Amendment (Tax File Numbers) Bill 1988. The position of Privacy Commissioner was created. The Centre is interested in pursuing a number of matters with the current Commissioner Kevin O'Connor.

Contingent Legal Aid Fund

A full-time staff member of RLC represented the Combined Community Legal Centres Group on the working party that was established by the Legal Aid Commission of NSW to consider the proposal to establish a Contingent Legal Aid Fund in Australia.

Motor Vehicle Property Damage

The Centre has been involved in the National Campaign for Compulsory Third Party Property Damage Insurance. Representations have been made to the NSW Attorney-General's Department and negotiations and communications are continuing.

Media highlights

The Centre's activities have attracted a great deal of attention from the media. Television appearances have been made by staff members to discuss housing and credit issues, radio interviews were conducted to discuss women's rights, housing, credit and criminal justice and newspaper reports have covered the ambit of our specialities. The Sydney Morning Herald made the Centre's initiatives in credit and immigration issues their lead stories on two occasions.

The media have conducted a number of interviews with RLC staff for educational purposes - interviews and comments have appeared in Sydney metropolitan newspapers as well as in journals further afield. We have assisted Social Change Media in a programme to educate consumers in civil debt recovery procedures.

RLC staff and volunteers have had articles published in the Legal Services Bulletin, Law News, Law Society Journal and On The Record in an array of specialities ranging from domestic violence to the legal implications of AIDS treatment.

Links with other organisations

RLC has extensive involvement in local, statewide and national organisations working in the interests of people with legal and related problems.

RLC is involved with the following local organisations:

- South Sydney Committee of the Australia Assistance Plan
- South Sydney Domestic Violence Committee
- South Sydney Women's' Centre
- South Sydney Community Aid
- South Sydney Domestic Violence Committee

RLC is involved with the following statewide organisations:

- RLC is a member of the NSW Combined Community Legal Centres Group, and is represented on the management committee of the Group's secretariat. RLC has contributed to the work of the following subcommittees of the Combined CLC group:
 - Consumer Credit
 - Compulsory Third Party Property Insurance Campaign
 - Management Issues
 - Professional Indemnity Insurance
 - Community Legal Education Workers Group
- The Tenants Union of NSW Legal Working Party
- The Youth Justice Coalition
- Migration Law Group
- RLC is represented on the editorial committee of the Lawyers Practice Manual
- RLC is represented on the management committee of the Consumer Credit Legal Centre. RLC's Credit Unit works closely with CCLC to co-ordinate delivery of casework services and to work jointly on research, submissions and campaigns.
- RLC is also represented on the management committee of Redfern Legal Centre Publishing and Streetwise Comics.

IDRS is represented on:

- the Board of NSW Council for Intellectual Disability
- IDRS Guardianship Board Advisory Group
- Interdepartmental working group on offenders with Intellectual Disability
- Ethics Committee of South Metropolitan Developmental Disability Service

RLC is involved with the following national organisations:

- The Australian Financial Counselling and Credit Reform Association (AFCCRA) is the national body for financial counsellors, credit advocates and others interested in advocating on behalf of consumers of credit. Both RLC's consumer credit solicitors are involved with AFCCRA and one was elected secretary for 1988 - 1989. RLC has made important contributions to AFCCRA campaigns on the reform of the Credit Act, credit overcommitment, consumer credit insurance and class actions.
- One solicitor is on the executive of the Consumer Law Association - National.
- Former principal solicitor, Andrew Haesler, was heavily involved in negotiating the national community legal centres professional indemnity insurance scheme.
- IDRS is represented on the Disability Advisory Council of Australia.

Administration and Finances

General Service and Credit & Debt Service

Staff

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Barbara Aston: | Secretary |
| Amanda Davies: | Typist/word-processor (part-time) |
| Frances Gibson: | Solicitor general casework/tenancy |
| Jane Goddard: | Solicitor casework/sexual assault and domestic violence |
| Andy Haesler: | Principal solicitor housing/tenancy. (In June 1989 Andy resigned to go to the Legal Aid Commission in Wollongong.) |
| Mick Hillman: | Social Worker employed by South Sydney Council to work at RLC |
| Heather McGillvray: | Administrator |
| Gordon Renouf: | Solicitor consumer credit policy and advocacy |
| Ben Slade: | Solicitor casework/consumer credit advocacy/ Principal solicitor from July 1989. |

Casual Staff

Sandra Maude, Inez Ryan, Liz Devine, Will Stubbs.

Locum Solicitors

Janet Loughman, Nanette Rogers, Gig Moon.

Volunteers

Volunteers are essential to the services provided by RLC, the centre wishes to thank the following people for their work

Joan Walker, Librarian

Volunteer Solicitors /Barristers

Micheline Dewdeney, David Goodwin, Sue Hansen, Paul Farrugia, Christopher Conelly, Will Stubbs, Kendall Odgers, Steven Gollege, Glen Dolan, Robyn Beaney, Peter Velez, Dino Farronato, Peter Stern, Amrit Macintyre, Brett Galloway, Michael Windsor, Malcolm Carr, Alexis Hailstones, Clare Farnan, Gillian Clyde, Nuala O'Leary, Rod Smith, Julian McVittie, Connie Ceremides, Ann Collins, Julie Robb, Julian Miller, Joanne Collings, Leonie Flannery, Chris Komor, Ray McGuinness, John Canning, Joanne Maxwell, Penny Musgrave, Mary Whitehead, Michael Gibson, Caroline Seagrove, Caroline Penfold, Peter Skinner, Maryanne McMahon, Matthew Byrne, Stuart Hammond, Kylie Nomchong, Rae Parker, Anthony Anderson, Shiela Begg, Alex Shehadie, Loris Hendy, Jill Anderson, David Godwin, Peter Hamill, Andrezej Marcyinski, Alice Mantel, Rod Bretag, Eddie Neumann, Edwin Mok, John Conlan, Helen Taranto, Libby Baulch, Tony Serone, Jane Forster, Merrin Mason, Ann Letch, Amanda Tibbey, Lloyd Jones, Monica Thorman, Graham Jones, Katherine Thorpe, Crash Craddock, Lesley Power, Cherie Glanfield.

Volunteer Students

Irene Longworth, Michael O'Keefe, Emma Curtis, Tony Stamford, Hanna Schuster, Anita Pollard, Grant Arbuthnot, David Stewart, Melissa McAdam, Penny Holt, Colin Murphy, Matilda Sbrizzi, Lee Spano, Rachel McCallum, Haley Katzen, Astrid Alfaro, Nick Kidd, Camilla Hughes, Bill DeMars, Stephen Davis, Pat Foster, Lici Inge, Paul Johnston, Jessica Rowe, Paul Lewis, Abigail Jones, Miranda Stewart, Deborah Frew, Anna Fomin, Danielle Woolley, Simon Lake, Jeannie No, Emma Koorey, Penny Brown, Ann Flahvin, Doug Craig, Iain Anderson, Dom Beckett, Francine Esterman, Vanessa Lethlean, Michael Mulligan, Catherine Hawkins, Bridget Keary, Nicholas Potten, Sarah Mayo, John Mulquiney, Simeon Beckett, Andrew Carter, Kate Halliday, Anthony Anderson, Ben Heuston, Terri Bruno, Nigel Vertigan, Tim Leach, Patrizia Anzellotti, Ann Cossins, John Godwin, Marcus Elliot, John Gaudin, Janice Connelly, J. Mackie-Schneider, Joanne Casburn, Daphne Anderson, Tim Fox, Pauline Betts, Anja Hilkmeyer, Phaik-Young Fong, Linda de Silver, Matthew Barnard, Jeffrey Silk, Laura Beacroft, Paul Sheiner, Bridget Keary, Lynette Ireland, Mike Ticher, Daniella Viola, Eduardo Laginha, Ross Sullivan, Anne Miller, Maria Bechara, June Rozen, B. Sriskanthadas, Lance Jackson, Rosalind Bragg, Iain Martin, Alex Grossart, Peter Starr, David Sachs, Janice Mitchell, Sean Panambalana, Jenny Buckley, Katherine Boniadian, Peter Waters, Sue Bowery, Sophie Goddard, Conrad Gray, Stephanie McCoy, Waldemar Jedryszczac, Chris Buckley, Alison Urquhart, Sarah Connell, Prue Vines, Larissa Bastin, Charlotte Steer, Hugh Molesworth, Helen Karagounis, Megan Cusack, Rachel Petro, Robert Titterton, Paul Moorehouse, Tanya Allen, Ian Noakes, Pia Turcinov, Ruth Wylie, Robyne Frost.

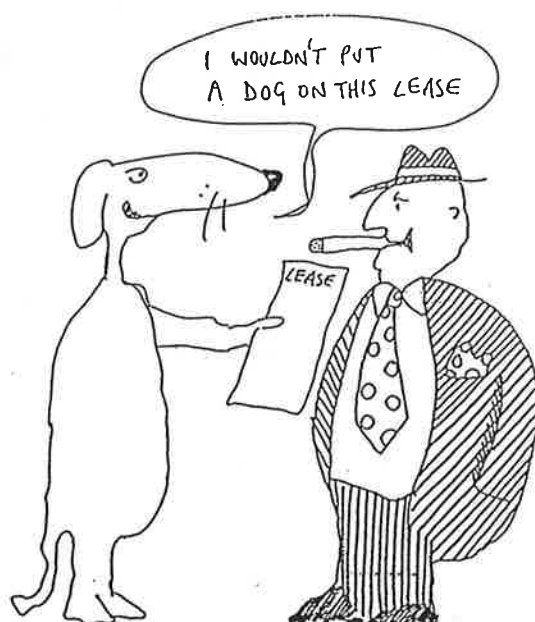
Intellectual Disability Rights Service

Staff

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Jim Simpson: | Solicitor and Co-ordinator |
| Janene Cootes: | Educator (left in April '89) |
| Jill Anderson: | Solicitor (left in May '89) |
| Kim Rosser: | Solicitor (from August '89) |
| Pam Simpson: | Educator (part time; left in September '89) |
| Jenny Klause; | Educator (from September '89) |
| Penny Harrington: | Administrator |
| Shauna McIntyre; | Educator (from May) |
| Helen Wilson: | Legal Project Worker (July-Dec 89) |
| Carol Pein: | Educator (part time) |
| Carol Craber: | Educator (part time; left in March 89). |
| Sheila Begg: | Typist (part-time; left in June 89). |

Volunteers / locums / casuals

Helen Wilson, Janice Connelly, Annie Cossins, Simon Lake, Camilla Hughes, Max Howlett, Margaret White.



Finances

Redfern Legal Centre Limited detailed Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 30 June 1989

| | 1989 | 1988 | \$ |
|--|----------------|----------------|----|
| <u>Gross Surplus</u> transferred from trading account | <u>523</u> | <u>4,526</u> | |
| OTHER INCOME:- | | | |
| Donations | 1,972 | 2,445 | |
| Consulting fees | - | 6,641 | |
| Lecture fees | 9,442 | 7,163 | |
| Grants | 568,086 | 575,653 | |
| Interest received | 26,875 | 23,384 | |
| Recovered costs | 13,535 | 6,725 | |
| Sundry income | 2,329 | 3,389 | |
| | 622,239 | 625,400 | |
| TOTAL: | <u>622,762</u> | <u>629,926</u> | |
| <u>EXPENSES</u> | | | |
| Accountancy | 934 | 2,705 | |
| Annual leave provision | 10,662 | 10,908 | |
| Auditors' remuneration | 7,091 | 7,241 | |
| Bad and doubtful debts | 1,054 | - | |
| Bank charges | 1,036 | 595 | |
| Casual labour | - | 481 | |
| Cleaning | - | 243 | |
| Conference expenses | 848 | | |
| Consulting fees | 25,434 | 32,221 | |
| Depreciation | 4,769 | 3,238 | |
| Electricity | 245 | 420 | |
| Entertaining | - | 439 | |
| Fitout | 16,232 | 4,594 | |
| General | 3,184 | 2,265 | |
| Grant expenditure | 21,432 | 59,460 | |
| Insurance | 3,712 | 1,338 | |
| Loss on disposal of non-current assets | - | 3,313 | |
| Office | 2,108 | 1,594 | |
| Photocopying expenses | 1,758 | 2,570 | |
| Printing postage and stationery | 5,178 | 12,290 | |
| Rent paid | 3,225 | 4,339 | |
| Salaries and wages | 428,120 | 404,770 | |
| Repairs and maintenance | 2,300 | 2,041 | |
| Staffing expenses | 26,137 | 21,179 | |
| Subscriptions | 6,190 | 7,591 | |
| Sundry | 4,302 | 2,580 | |
| Superannuation | 100 | 2,188 | |
| Telephone | 18,205 | 17,994 | |
| Travelling, fares etc | 11,167 | 9,997 | |
| | 605,423 | 618,594 | |
| <u>OPERATING SURPLUS</u> transferred to profit and loss account | <u>17,339</u> | <u>11,332</u> | |

RLC's general service is funded principally through the Legal Aid Commission of NSW. The Commission receives its funds for distribution to Community Legal Centres from the Federal and State Departments of the Attorney-General.

In addition to this, RLC receives financial support from the NSW Department of Family and Community Services for the Credit and Debt financial counselling service. This year (1989/90) the Department decided to fund only at 88/89 level. This means that RLC will have to consider a reduction of service at a time when the demand for the service is growing.

South Sydney Council continues to make an important contribution to RLC. The Council pays for the Social Worker position and provides premises, electricity, printing, cleaning, maintenance and a contribution to stationery.

The Intellectual Disability Rights Service received funding from the Federal Department of Community Services and Health, the NSW Department of Family and Community Services, the NSW Department of Health. It also received a grant from the Law Foundation for the production of *Rights in Residence*.

In 1988-89, RLC obtained financial support through the Legal Aid Commission from the interests on solicitors' trust funds (the so-called 'Westpac' fund) for capital items such as furniture and computers.

RLC also received generous donations from clients, community groups and volunteers. In the absence of funding levels which keep pace with inflation, these donations are becoming vital to the Centre's survival. We thank all those who have contributed to the Centre.

Donations Received

Michael Ahrens, Ms Catchpole, Ms Strickland, Murill Martin, Mrs Reid, Ena Johnson, Andrew Haesler, Mr Foley, Mr & Mrs Franklin, Mrs Adams, Mrs Chennie, Mrs Dawson, John Walker, Natalie Connelli, Theresa Hartley, G. Funnel, Mrs Barcon, Col Barnes, Gillian Barlow, Mr & Mrs Shuttleworth, G. Callender, L. O'Donnell, Felicity Baldry, Anne Smith, Mr/Mrs Furney, Connie McPherson, Mike Hanna, Gordon Woods, Duk Wong, Mr Bashit, Denise Stevens, Mr & Ms Redroff, Mr Dyke, Sue Pringle, G. T. Levi, Mr Daly, Social Work Department of Sydney University, Mrs Telfer, Mrs Shiu, Mr & Ms Trundall, Marcel Novelton and Blake Dawson Waldron, solicitors.

In these times of fiscal frugality donations are more than welcome. RLC would like to thank everyone for their contribution.

Management

Redfern Legal Centre is a company limited by guarantee. It has five directors who have delegated most of their functions to the Centre Management Committee. This Committee meets monthly and is made up of:

- 5 staff members
- 2 volunteer practitioners
- 4 volunteer students
- 4 others at least one of whom is from a local community organisation and one who is not a lawyer.

The Management Committee receives reports from subcommittees and staff. The Management Committee retains a right to veto over the subcommittees and is responsible for overall RLC policy.

The Intellectual Disability Rights Service has a management committee which is a sub committee of the RLC management committee, it includes representatives of the NSW Council for Intellectual Disability and RLC. Advice to IDRS is also obtained from the members of a consumer's committee known as the Rights Forum. This forum is also represented on the IDRS management committee.

The staff are responsible for the day to day running of the Centre. The Centre's legal practice is formally conducted by two principal solicitors

- Andrew Haesler (to July '89), Ben Slade (from July '89) - RLC general service and credit and debt service
- Jim Simpson - IDRS.

The policy and direction of the Centre is reviewed and evaluated annually at a "policy weekend". Staff, management, volunteers and people from the local community are invited to participate.

Directors

Philip Burgess, Clare Petre, Nigel Vertigan, Peter Stapleton, Crash Craddock.

RLC Management Committee

Sue Bowrey, Clare Petre, Peter Stern, Stamatia Stamatellis, Alexis Hailstones, Wayne Sutter, Helen Wilson, Nigel Vertigan, Camilla Hughes, Jane Goddard, Mick Hillman, Kim Rosser, Heather McGillvray, Andrew Haesler.

IDRS Management Committee

Jill Anderson, Janine Cootes, Carol Craber, Jane Fraser, Stan Nelley, Dennis Mockley, Maurice Mastrantonis, Danja Amara, Gordon Renouf, Paula Rix, Helen Wilson.

Industrial relations

RLC staff now have a job contract. The contracts set basic standards in areas such as hours of work, sick leave, parenting leave, termination of employment, and provide for a grievance and disputes procedure. Thanks are due to all those who laboured over many of the clauses.

On a wider scale, there have been developments with the Social and Community Services State Award which is being sought by the NSW Social Welfare Workers Union in the NSW Industrial Commission. An interim award has been made and it is expected that a conditions award will be in place by the end of the year, to be followed by a salaries award in mid-1990. This has focussed attention on the current salaries scale used by RLC, and the salaries committee has been asked to look at the scale.

In the light of the requirements of the Workcover scheme, RLC appointed the Trade Union Medical Centre as its rehabilitation provider, and adopted a policy on rehabilitation. Two workers from the Medical Centre were asked to conduct an inspection of RLC's working environment and have made various recommendations which will be considered by staff and management in the near future.

Last but not least...

Special thanks to Andy Haesler , Paul Farrugia and Micheline Dewdeney

Andy's association with Redfern Legal Centre began in March 1977 when he joined the student roster. Having endured the rigours of College of Law, he volunteered as a solicitor, before taking up the position of case work solicitor in January 1981. After a year long sojourn in the Northern Territory, he returned in March 1985 to become Principal Solicitor of RLC.

Just as everyone thought that the Council had included Andrew in the Heritage Order which covers the Town Hall, he announced his resignation as from June 1989 to join the Legal Aid Commission in Wollongong.

Andy has made significant contributions in the areas of prisons law and the Legal Centres Movement. As well as holding the record for attending eleven consecutive Annual Conferences he has proved time and time again that he knows just about everything there is to know about everything.

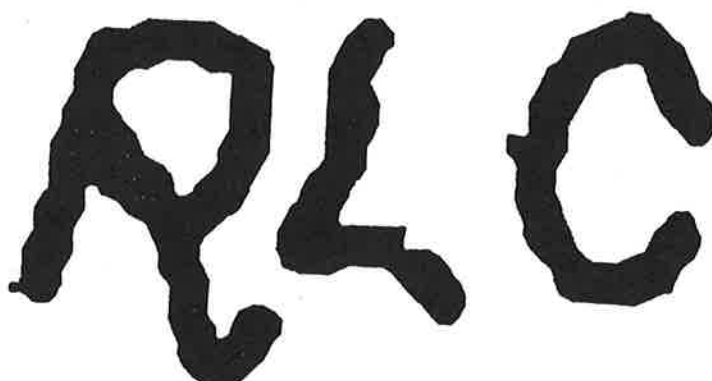
RLC and legal centres everywhere are indebted to his depth of knowledge and experience.

Paul Farrugia & Micheline Dewdeney

Paul has been a volunteer at RLC since 1980, Micheline, a volunteer for 8 years. During that time they have been the mainstay of the Tuesday afternoon advice shift. Without them it would have been difficult if not impossible to maintain a day-time advice roster. This shift is essential in an area where many clients are frightened to go out at night.

In 1988 Paul was awarded a Sydney City Council Community Services award in recognition of his voluntary service at RLC. Congratulations and thanks!

In 1989 Micheline was made an editor of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Bulletin and her skills in this area have been enormously valuable.



RLC

